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Secta. 17—27—100,000—21-5-53.

Dept- **(1958) Department**

M **SERIES.**

G.O. No. 4893

Dated 29 9 58

[Despatch Abstract.]

Labour - Enquiry into condition of agricultural labour - Revised questionnaire - Comments of this Government - Communicated to the Government of India.

BY AIR MAIL.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

No. LP. 9 (23).

Dated New Delhi, the 31st July 1948.

From

Rai Bahadur Sadashiva Prasad, M.A.,B.L.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments and
Chief Commissioners.

Subject: Enquiry into agricultural Labour conditions.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry (then Department) letter No. LP. -9 (9), dated, the 11th February, 1947, forwarding to the Provincial Government/Chief Commissioners a draft questionnaire and an ex explanatory memorandum on the subject mentioned above. The valuable comments received from the Provincial Governments, Chief Commissioners, Indian States and Economists have been considered by the Government of India. The consensus of opinion was in favour of simplifying the questionnaire. A simplified questionnaire has accordingly been prepared in the light of the comments received. Item No. 9 of the Central village questionnaire and ite m No. 5 of the Intensive family Survey have been included to secure information pertaining to forced labour prevalent in villages and to indicate forced labour actually rendered by the head of the family or any member thereof. This will enable the Government of India to take steps to eliminate the evil wherever it may still be existing. A copy of the questionnaire together with spare copies are enclosed for further comments, if any, by the Provincial Government/Chief Commissioner.

2. The proposal of setting up an organisation and the appointment of staff required for the enquiry is under consideration, and a decision is likely to be taken very shortly. The Provincial Government/Chief Commissioners will be addressed further on this subject shortly.

3. As it is desired to initiate the enquiry immediately I am to request that the Provincial Governments'/Chief Commissioners' comments on the revised questionnaire amy kindly be sent by air mail as early as possible, and not later than the 20th August, 1948.

Yours faithfully,

Sd. Sadashiva Prasad,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

p.t.o.

AGRICULTURE LABOUR ENQUIRY.

THE GENERAL WAGE QUESTIONNAIRE.

1. Village Taluk (Sub-Division). District. Province.

2. Land Revenue . . . . . Ryotwari. Zamindari Mahalwari.

3. Population in 1931 1941

4. Number of families mainly agricultural living in the village. -a) Non-cultivating owners
   b) Cultivating owners
   c) Tenants
   d) Labourers.

   Number of families mainly non-agricultural (e.g. Shopkeepers, tailors, oil crushers etc.).

5. Total cultivated area. acres.

6. Area of cultivable wastes. acres.

6. Area under each crop and yield

Crop.	Area (in acres.)	Irrigated Yield (in maunds)	Un-irrigated Area	Un-irrigated Yield (in maunds).
Cereals.				
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
Total.				

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	Irrigated		Un-irrigated	
	Area (in acres)	Yield (in maunds)	Area (in acres)	Yield (in maunds).
Pulses				
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
Total.				
Oilseeds				
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
Total.				
Fibres.				
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
Total.				
Other crops.				
(a)				
(b)				
(c)				
Total.				

7. Indicate briefly the rates of daily wages and piece wages, if any, for casual agricultural labour and the method of wages payment for the following agricultural operations.*

	Men.		Women.		Children.	
	Daily wages.	Piece wages	Daily wages	Piece wages.	Daily wages.	Piece wages.
Ploughing						
Sowing and Transplanting.						
Weeding.						
Irrigation.						
Reaping and Harvesting.						
Others.						

*If wages are paid in kind, give details about rates and the equivalent cash value.

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8. Average wholesale and retail prices of cereals and pulses consumed by labourers.

Items.	Unit.	Average wholesale Price.	Average Retail Price.
Cereals.			
1.			
2.			
3.			
Pulses.			
1.			
2.			
3.			

9. (i) Is the system of Forced Labour prevalent?

(ii) If so,

(a) In what form and for what purpose?

(b) State the legislative enactment which permits the use of forced or compulsory labour for public or private use;

(c) Describe briefly the local customs and usage which enable the use of forced labour.

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II. GENERAL FAMILY QUESTIONNAIRE.

Family No. House No. Village. Taluk Sub Division. District. Province.

Name of the Head of the family.	Age.	Sex.	Caste.	Main occupation.	Subsidiary occupation.

Size and Earning Strength of the Family.

Name.	Age.	Sex.	Relation to head of family.	Earner, helper or dependant.	Occupation of other earners in the family.
1					
2					
3.					

APPRROXIMATE ANNUAL NET INCOME DURING THE LAST YEAR OF THE FAMILY FROM.

(1) Land owned.
(2) Land taken on rent.
(3) Land obtained free of rent.
(4) Household occupations other than farming (Dairy etc.)
(5) Wages earned from work in the fields in the village.
(6) Wages earned from occupations other than in the fields in the village.
(7) Wages earned outside the village.

Total (a) from work in fields
(b) from other occupations.

Size of the holding in acres.
(a) Irrigated.
(b) Un-irrigated.

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III. INTENSIVE FAMILY SURVEY.

III A. Employment and earnings of workers in the family during the last year.

To be filled up separately for each earner men, women and child.

Details of earnings.	No. of days employed in the year.* (a)	Earnings. In cash (b)	In kind (c)	Value of perquisites. (d)	Rate of payment per.....
£1. Wages earned from work in fields in the village					
a) Ploughing					
b) Sowing and transplanting					
c) Weeding					
d) Irrigation.					
e) Reaping or Harvesting.					
f) Others					
" 2. Wages earned from work in occupations other than work in fields in the village					
a)					
b)					
3. Wages earned outside the village.					
a) from work in fields.					
b) other occupations.					
4. Total.					

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5. (i) Is the head of the family or any member thereof compelled to render forced labour?

(ii) If so, state the number of days during the year in which the head of the family or any member thereof rendered forced labour;

(iii) Also state the form and purpose for which forced labour was rendered.

6. No. of days employed on land owned or cultivated.

7. No. of days unemployed (for men only).

Reasons. Sickness. Weather. Want of work etc.

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* If the worker works only up to mid-day it should be taken as half a day.

£ Figures are to be given separately for forced labour, if any, under the sub-heads (a) to (f).

" Details are to be given separately for each occupation.

II . . . . . .

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III B. ANNUAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE OF THE FAMILY ON CEREALS AND PULSES DURING THE LAST YEAR.

	Total quantity consumed.	Quantity produced on farm.	Quantity received free or as wages.	Quantity purchased.
Food				
Cereals				
1.				
2.				
3.				
Pulses				
1.				
2.				
3.				

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III C. FAMILY BUDGET

Annual Net Income from the following.	Rs.	Annual expenditure on	Rs.
1. Land owned		Food	
2. Land taken on rent			
3. Land obtained free of rent			
4. Household occupations other than farming (a)		Clothing and footwear	
(b)		Fuel and lighting	
(c)		House rent and repairs.	
		Miscellaneous consumption expenditure.	
5. Wages earned from work in fields in the village.			
6. Wages from occupations other than work in fields in the village.		Social ceremonies.	
7. Wages earned outside the village:- a) from work in fields			
b) from other occupations.			
Others.			
Total			
How Family Budget Deficit was met.		How Family Budget Surplus was spent.	
New Debts incurred during the year		Debts repaid during the year.	
Remittances from outside.		Interest on loan.	
Sale of Capital assets (Cattle, land, implements etc.)		Purchase of capital assets (Cattle, land, implements etc.)	

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III D. INDEBTEDNESS.

Total debts at the beginning of last year.

New debts incurred during that year.

Debts pepaid during that year.

Total debts at the end of the last year.

Rate of interest.

Method of paying interest.

Value of property mortgaged if any.

p.t.o.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

BY AIR MAIL.

Letter Ms. No. 4893 dated 29-9-1948.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Labour,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Sub: Labour - Enquiry into conditions of agricultural labour - Revised questionnaire - Comments of this Government - Communicated to the Government of India.

Ref: Rai Bahadur Sadhasiva Prasad's letter No. LP. 9 (23) dated 31-7-48.

I am directed to furnish below the comments of this Government on the draft questionnaire for agricultural labour enquiry sent with the letter cited:--

GENERAL WAGE QUESTIONNAIRE:

Question 5. TOTAL CULTIVATED AREA:--

This question may be amplified under the following heads as details of this kind will be useful in gauging rural employment potential:-

(1) Area under forests.

(2) Area barren and uncultivable land

(3) Area of land put to non-agricultural use

(4) Cultivable waste

(5) Permanent pastures and grassy lands.

(6) Miscellaneous tree crops and groves, not included under area sown

(7) Current fallows.

(8) Fallow land; and

(9) Net area sown.

above classification of land has been suggested vernment of India in connection with World Agri- Census.).

tion 6. AREA UNDER EACH CROP AND YIELD OF CROP.

The figures will be fluctuating from year to year, depending on the season, the economic conditions

etc....

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6b. Moreover, information for the current year cannto be obtained during that year, as cultivation will go on till the close of the fasli. It appears desirable to get the information in the form of the average for the previous 3 or 5 faslis.

Under "crops", fruits and vegetables may be specifically mentioned.

8. AVERAGE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL RRICES OF CERIALS AND PULSES CONSUMED BY LABOURERS.

There are two kinds of prices with regard to controlled food grains.

(i) Controlled price fixed by the Government.

(ii) Price actually prevailing in the local market. It is desirable to get information as to both the prices as a ryot cannot always get his requirements at controlled prices, and will have to pay the higher price.

III. INTENSIVE FAMILY SURVEY:

III.B. Annual Consumption Expenditure of the family on cereals and pulses during last year.

Only cereals and pulses are mentioned and data regarding quantity alone are to be given. If this schedule is to serve as a basis for the construction of a cost of living index of agricultural labour, it is necessary to include not only some more items like condiments, oils and fats, jaggery etc. but also the values of the respective quantities consumed.

III.C. FAMILY BUDGET.

The items Clothing and footwear, fuel, and lighting should be subdivided suitably into dhoties, saris, upper cloth in the one case, and fire-wood, kerosene and matches in the other. Unless such details are available, it will not be possible to fix the weights to be used in the construction of the index for to obtain data relating to prices required for its computation. ~~Miscellaneous~~

A miscellaneous group designed to provide among other things for expenditure on education, pan supari, amusements, tobacco etc. may be included. This is necessary in view of the importance which this group has assumed in the pattern of expenditure by agricultural labour.

Yours faithfully,

Sd. x x x x
Secy. to Government.-

Copy to the Commissioner of Labour.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

PSR. 17-8-53.

18-1-54.